

President's Report 2004

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY • THE YEAR IN REVIEW



In 2004, Youngstown State University made great progress in many crucial areas. Enrollment, for example, increased for the fourth consecutive year in 2004.

This increase is the largest percentage increase among the main campuses of Ohio's 11 major public universities.

Also noteworthy is that faculty and staff won \$6.54 million in grants in 2004 — an unprecedented number at YSU. We also opened a high school on campus, the first of its kind at a public university in Ohio, called Youngstown Early College.

It is with pleasure that I share with you the progress made at YSU in 2004.

For more information about YSU, visit www.ysu.edu.

David C. Sweet
President

Youngstown
STATE UNIVERSITY

Enrollment Growth

Enrollment at YSU hit a nine-year high in 2004, with 13,101 students, an increase of 215 students from 12,887 in fall semester 2003.

It was the first time since 1995 that enrollment topped 13,000.

Also announced in 2004 by the Ohio Board of Regents was that YSU has led state universities in enrollment growth since 2000, with an 11 percent increase over those four years.

Maintaining affordable tuition and fees in a time where the Ohio state share of instruction has been declining is one contributing factor to the enrollment jump. In 2000, SSI was \$47 million. In 2004, however, it dropped to a little over \$41 million.

- YSU kept tuition at \$5,884, the lowest of comparable state universities, and \$1,500 or 20 percent below the state average. (see chart on page 4)
- Not only are there more students on campus, but they are more diverse. Minority students now make up 13.7 percent of overall enrollment, up from 10.9 percent four years ago.
- The Bitonte College of Health and Human Services reported the largest enrollment growth of YSU's six colleges in 2004, with 3,297 students. That represents a 50 percent increase since fall 2000.

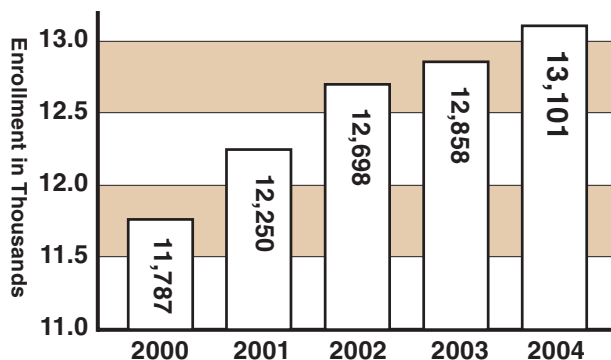
Though there was an increase in new students, YSU also retained 70 percent of freshmen in 2003-04. That number goes even higher when students use the mentoring services of the Center for Student Progress, with 81 percent retained. ■



Nearly 2,000 students received degrees in 2003-04, the highest number in four years.

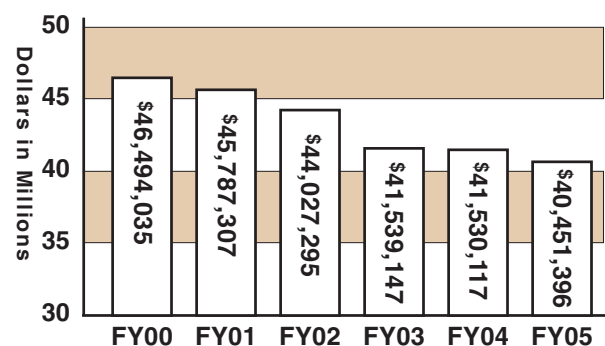
Enrollment Up...

YSU has experienced steady enrollment increases since President Sweet made enrollment a top priority when he assumed the presidency in 2000.



State Support Down...

The state share of instruction has been declining since 2000, forcing students to pay more for education.



Grant Activity

YSU was awarded an unprecedented amount in grants in 2004, winning \$6.5 million. That's nearly six times more than \$1.2 million a decade ago.

YSU faculty and staff received funding for 103 of the 152 grant proposals submitted in 2004, a success rate of 68 percent. That's well above the national standard of about 35 percent.

The awards came in all shapes and sizes from every corner of campus:

- \$356,475 to James J. Carroll in physics and astronomy from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research;
- \$496,750 to the Rayen College of Engineering and Technology from the U.S. Department of Education;
- \$350,000 to John Russo and Sherry Linkon of YSU's Center for Working-Class Studies from the Ford Foundation;
- \$209,131 to Chet Cooper and Gary Walker in biological sciences and Thomas Kim in chemistry from the National Science Foundation; and
- \$75,000 to Marcia Matanin of human performance and exercise science from the National Youth Sports Program for children from low-income families.

YSU also received a \$100,000 Campus Heritage Grant from the Getty, one of the world's most prominent cultural and philanthropic institutions. The first Getty YSU has received, the grant is intended to help the university identify and preserve historic buildings on or near campus. ■

Achievements in Academics

YSU faculty and students experienced many noteworthy academic achievements in 2004.

Six YSU faculty members from an array of disciplines received awards from the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education for excellence in teaching. They are Rebecca Barnhouse, English; Stephen Graf, Psychology; Hazel M. Pierson, Engineering; Angela Spalsbury, Math; William Vendemia, Management; and Charles Vergon, Education.

Students will soon have the opportunity to participate in four new master's programs, which were endorsed by the

YSU Board of Trustees and approved by the Ohio Board of Regents.

- Master of Arts in American Studies
- Master of Arts in Financial Economics
- Master of Computing and Information Systems
- Northeast Ohio Universities Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. This degree, which has been



Snowflake Kicovic, a YSU senior, received an international award for her research in semiconductor electronics.

approved by the Ohio Board of Regents, is offered by a consortium of YSU, University of Akron, Cleveland State University and Kent State University. Classes began January 2005.

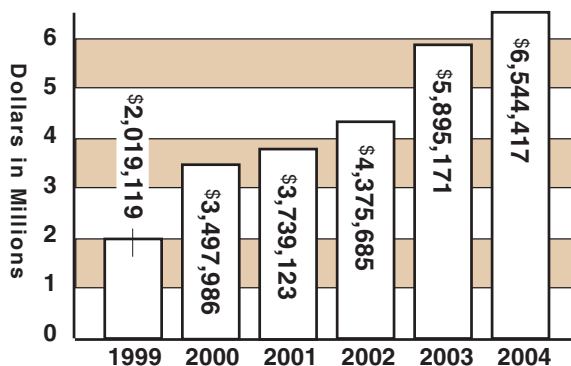
YSU students also had outstanding accomplishments in 2004.

- Snowflake Kicovic, a YSU senior in physics and computer and electrical engineering, won a gold medal at an international inventors festival, Tesla Fest 2004, in Yugoslavia. She accepted the award for research she and a team of YSU students are conducting in semiconductor electronics.
- A team of engineering students placed high in a national bridge competition, claiming victory over teams from Ohio State, Columbia, the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Michigan.
- Three math students won awards for their presentations at Mathfest, an annual national competition.
- The 2004 class of University Scholars had 23 high school valedictorians, one of the highest numbers since the program began in 1992. In addition, the class of 40 scholars boasted an average ACT score of 30. The average national ACT score for high school seniors in 2003 was 20.8.

Visit www.ysu.edu and click on Youngstown State University News for more information about these and other news items. ■

Grant increase

A historic achievement for YSU in 2004 was the increase in research grants – faculty and staff won the unprecedented amount of \$6.5 million.



Campus Milestones

At YSU, 2004 was a year characterized by significant milestones.

President George W. Bush visited campus to lead a panel discussion on community health centers with approximately 250 invited guests. The first time a sitting president came to the university in its 96-year history, President Bush's stop resulted in prominent mention of YSU in the New York Times, USA Today and CBS News.

Other milestones:

- WYSU-FM, the university's public radio station, celebrated 35 years of broadcasting.
- The Dana School of Music had its 135th anniversary and became an "All Steinway" school, with the purchase of 68 pianos, placing it among the top music schools in the nation.
- The Penguin baseball team won its first-ever Horizon League Championship and had its first berth in the College World Series.
- Moody's Investors Service upgraded YSU's credit rating from A3 to A2.

The Office of University Development experienced a major milestone in 2004, with the staff raising nearly \$7 million. Part of the funds raised came from the prestigious Kresge Foundation, which awarded the university \$600,000 for the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center campaign. Receiving the grant put YSU in some very select company, with YSU the first Ohio public university to receive a Kresge grant in three years.

Ground was broken in 2004 for the \$12 million Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center, which is scheduled to open fall 2005. It is the first recreation center on a public university campus in Ohio constructed entirely with private donations.

Development also sponsored Penguin Parade, a public arts project that featured 30 decorated penguins. The penguins, which sparked an outpouring of community pride, imagination and support, debuted at the 2004 Summer Festival of the Arts to enthusiastic crowds.

In November 2004, the penguins were auctioned at Stambaugh Auditorium, raising \$200,000 for local nonprofit organizations.

The annual YSU Phonathon experienced a banner year in 2004, with a 161 percent increase in pledges. The fund drive, which supports a variety of student programs and projects, raised \$96,800.

Visit www.ysu.edu/develop to find out about online giving. ■

YSU students Matt Morrone and Carla Macali helped lead the push for the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center to be constructed at YSU. They are pictured at the groundbreaking ceremony held in April 2004.



New Technology

In 2004, the university made great strides in technology by unveiling the 54-page Technology Master Plan. This plan entails transforming the university's computing services over the next several years.

Once the plan is implemented at a budgeted cost of \$19.5 million, the changes will be felt by students, faculty and staff in every department on campus.

It is funded by state capital dollars, student

technology fees, private donations and external grants. YSU signed a contract with SunGard SCT to provide, implement and maintain enterprise software.

The kickoff of YES - YSU Enterprise Resource Planning Solution was launched in 2004. YES is a major component of the Technology Plan and deals with the enterprise resource planning software. The software will boost the university's administrative computing capabilities in human resources, financial aid, finance, student records and alumni/development.

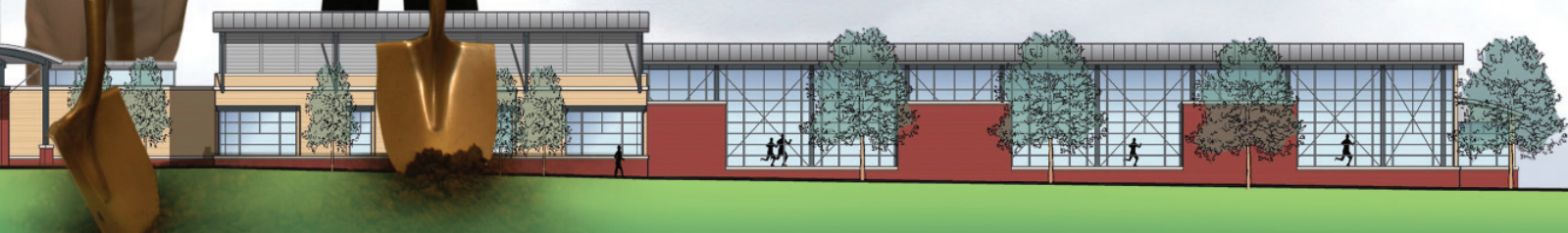
Technology improvements have also supported the teaching-learning process. For example, more classrooms are equipped with multimedia equipment and have more services available to support the classrooms and those who use them. Support services are now available in the evening and on weekends.

Another part of the plan is to upgrade the campus from a wired network to a wireless network, allowing access to online services from a laptop computer without requiring a wired connection.

A pilot wireless network project in Maag Library is currently underway to accommodate the move in this direction, as YSU works to install wireless access in a minimum of two campus buildings per year. ■



Sophomore Carla Detoro works on a wireless laptop at Maag library.



Diversity Matters

Increasing student diversity on campus was one of President David C. Sweet's major priorities when he took the presidency in 2000. Since then, minority students have become 13.7 percent of the overall student population, up from 10.9 percent four years ago.

Two new initiatives launched in 2004 demonstrate that YSU has assumed a leadership position in diversity initiatives:

The Presidential Mentors Program consists of a group of seven upper-division, diverse students who serve as mentors to the president and his cabinet on social, cultural, educational and political matters at YSU. The president has met with the mentors once a month since late fall semester 2004 to discuss these topics.

The program is unique because mentor programs are usually top-down. After conducting extensive research, Jimmy Myers, equal opportunity director, said the program is the first of its kind in the United States.

The "Faces of YSU" banner campaign features 20 diverse students on 55 banners hung up all over campus. The purpose of the campaign, which was initiated by the Student Diversity Council, is to promote diversity awareness and to create a climate of acceptance for everyone on campus. Each semester five new banners with different faces will be displayed. ■

2004 Tuition at Ohio Universities

YSU tuition is the lowest of all comparable state universities, \$1,500 below the state average and \$1,600 below Kent, Akron and Ohio State.

Miami University	\$9,042
University of Cincinnati	\$8,379
Bowling Green State	\$8,072
Ohio University	\$7,770
Kent State	\$7,504
University of Akron	\$7,510
Ohio State	\$7,542
Average	\$7,508
University of Toledo	\$7,054
Cleveland State	\$6,822
Wright State	\$6,477
YOUNGSTOWN STATE	\$5,884

Community Connections

A number of new community connections were enhanced or developed in 2004.

A high school aimed at giving Youngstown public school students a head start on college, called Youngstown Early College, opened on campus in August 2004 with 75 ninth-graders. Housed on the second floor of Fedor Hall in six classrooms, the school will add 75 to 100 students annually for a total enrollment of up to 400 students in grades nine through 12 by the 2007-08 school year.

The university and the Youngstown City School District partnered in this venture, which is the first of its kind on a public university campus in Ohio, putting the university and the city school district at the national forefront of urban education reform.

YEC, developed with the assistance of the Knowledge Works Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is designed to help average students with demonstrated academic potential to succeed in high school and transition to college.

- YSU and the city of Youngstown also formalized a partnership with the city of Salerno, Italy, and the University of Salerno in 2004. Forming the first known combined, simultaneous sister city/sister university partnership in the world, the University of Salerno will be officially designated as YSU's study abroad site through the College Consortium of International Studies. The universities will also participate in student and



YEC English teacher Susan Crawford with Youngstown Early College students, from left, Olivia Christian, Mireidis Donato and Devron Love.

faculty exchanges, with the cities working together on business opportunities.

- A stronger partnership between YSU and the United Way was formed in 2004. YSU raised a historic high of \$46,500 in 2004 for United Way agencies, surpassing the university's goal of \$40,000.
- A YSU student and a graduate were very visible in the community in 2004. Graduate Amanda Beagle was crowned Miss Ohio, and student Jennifer Yazbek placed second in the Miss Deaf America pageant. ■